



COUNTY BOROUGH OF STOCKPORT

REPORT

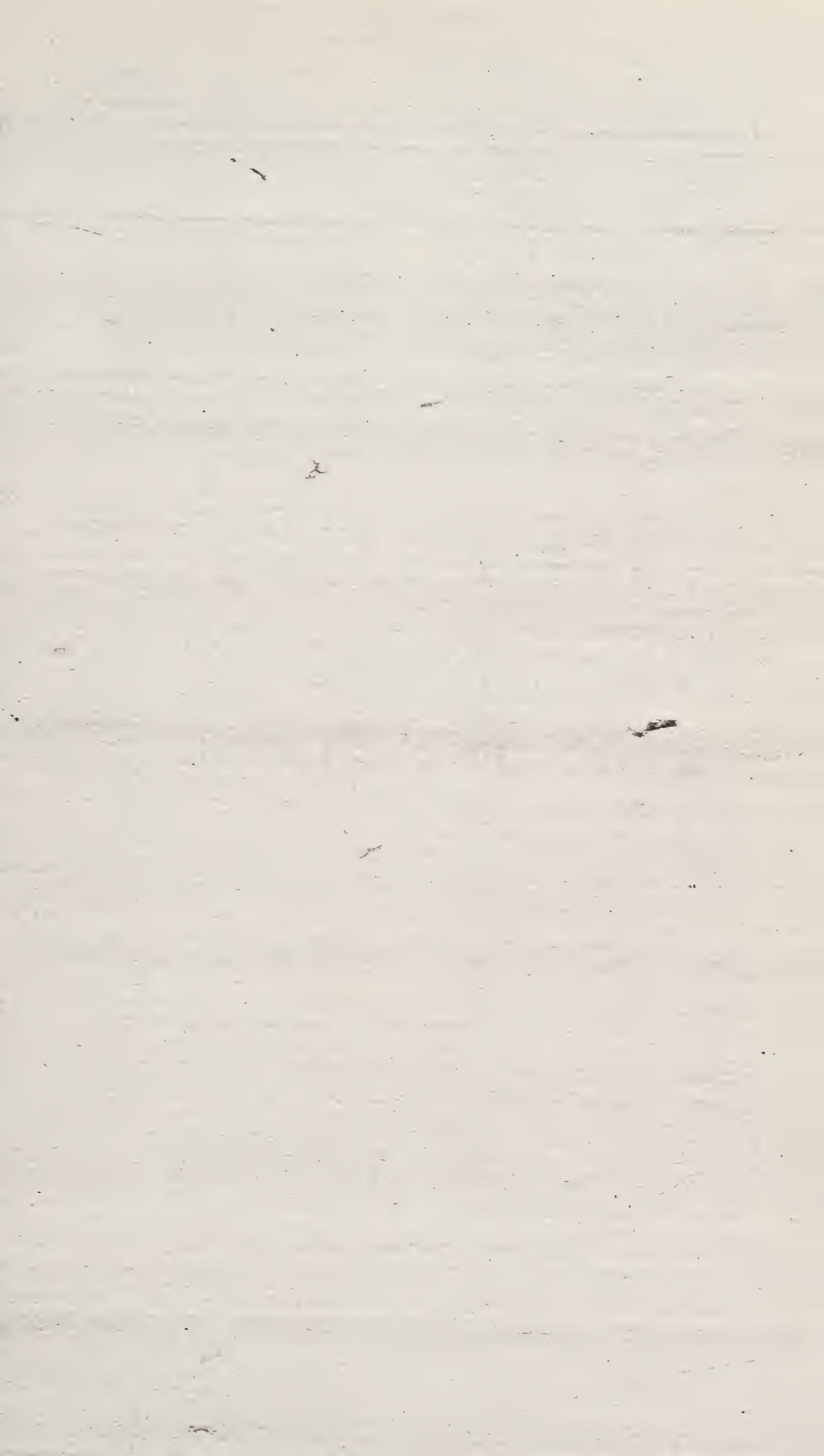
— on the —

Medical Inspection *of* School Children

*From January 1st to December
31st, 1917*



TAYLOR, GARNETT, EVANS & CO., LTD., STOCKPORT, MANCHESTER, AND LONDON.



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Vice-Chairman—Councillor Thomas E. Forster, J.P.

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MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN SUB-COMMITTEE.

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Medical Officer to Education Committee—H. E. Cerbin, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (on active service).

Deputy Medical Officer to Education Committee—A. G. Jenner, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. (on active service).

Acting Medical Officer to Education Committee and School Medical Officer—Winifred F. Wigglesworth, M.B., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer—R. W. Jameson, M.D. D.P.H. (resigned May, 1917), and M. D. Barber-Taylor, M.B., Ch.B. (from September, 1917).

School Nurses—Mrs. Newton, Miss Benson (resigned March, 1917), and Miss Bell.

Assistant at Inspections—Miss Cooper (resigned June, 1917) and Miss Taylor.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the County
Borough of Stockport.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In the absence, on military service, of Dr. Corbin, medical officer to the Education Committee, we beg to submit the Annual Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year 1917.

The number of children medically inspected during the year was 4,543, of whom 1,223 were entrants, 2,195 leavers, and 1,125 special cases. The percentage of defects discovered among the children examined was 47.34.

The number of necessitous children requiring free meals has remained a small one, and two centres have been sufficient for carrying out this work.

An arrangement made in the early part of the year for the provision of cheap spectacles has proved a beneficial one, and there has been a decided increase in the number of children brought to the Town Hall on account of defective vision and for whom glasses have been prescribed. The Stockport Blind Institution continues to give generous help in the provision of glasses for needy cases.

Treatment of ringworm of the scalp by X-rays has been carried out to a greater extent the last two years, and very few cases now refuse this method of treatment. It is gratifying to note that only 13 cases were out of school at the end of the year on account of ringworm.

The number of attendances at the school clinic has again increased, and this year has been 7,600; the number of children who have attended for treatment or inspection has been 1,935.

The provision of a School Dental Clinic would make the scheme of treatment more comprehensive, and we would invite your early attention to this matter, and also to the desirability of establishing open-air classes for tuberculous and pretuberculous children who are unfit to attend the ordinary school.

Dr. Jameson, after acting as School Medical Officer for four months, resigned in May on his appointment as Temporary Medical Officer of Health for Chesterfield.

In conclusion, we desire to express our thanks to the Education Committee, the Secretary of Education, the teachers, and the School Attendance Officers for the valuable co-operation and help they have given us throughout the year, and we desire to record the satisfactory work done by the School Nurses and the Assistant at Inspections.

We have the honour to be,

Your obedient servants,

W. F. WIGGLESWORTH,
M. D. BARBER-TAYLOR.

23rd March, 1918.

ACCOMMODATION OF AND ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHOOLS.

The County Borough of Stockport has, since the amalgamation of the Heaton Norris area in November, 1913, an area of 7,059 acres, and an estimated population of 125,774. There is, therefore, approximately one elementary school child to every 6.73 persons living in the district. The corresponding figure for England and Wales at the time of the last census, 1911, was 5.9, and for the County of London 6.08. The following list gives the school accommodation of the Borough and average attendance up to December 31st, 1917:—

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on Roll.		No. of Partial Exemp- tion Scholars.	Aver- age Atten- dance.	Per- cent- age.
			Under 5	Over 5			
St. Thomas', Htn. Chapel	M.	328	—	299	5	251	85
"	I.	120	12	66	—	64	81
St. John's, Htn. Mersey	M.	253	—	243	—	201	83
"	I.	142	29	71	—	65	65
Heaton Moor Temp. Cl.	I.	150	1	137	—	119	86
North Reddish Cl.	S.M.	360	—	401	32	357	93
"	J.M.	300	—	296	—	256	86
"	I.	320	—	274	—	194	70
Houldsworth's	M.	419	—	447	55	392	93
"	I.	286	17	224	—	201	83
Reddish R.C.	M. & I.	360	—	196	—	165	84
St. Peter's C.E.	M.	337	—	306	—	252	82
"	I.	209	17	91	—	79	73
Hollywood Park Cl.	M.	500	—	412	—	342	83
"	I.	200	5	152	—	109	70
Brentnall St. Wes. H.G.	M.	462	—	516	—	456	88
"	I.	144	12	132	—	109	76
Wellington Road Cl.	M.	308	—	329	18	290	91
"	I.	127	3	118	—	96	79
St. Thomas' C.E.	M.	720	—	707	128	532	83
"	I.	324	35	212	—	179	72
Stockport R.C.	B.	226	—	293	51	210	79
"	G.	242	—	281	58	193	76
"	I.	230	45	185	—	162	70
Hanover Cl.	M.	344	—	276	46	202	80
"	I.	107	16	72	—	62	70
Portwood Temp. Cl.	M.	348	—	383	37	321	88
"	I.	237	7	170	—	131	74
St. Paul's C.E.	M.	311	—	358	78	264	83
"	I.	143	16	113	—	95	74
Vernon Park Cl.	M.	600	—	396	—	327	83
"	I.	320	56	158	—	186	87

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on Roll.		No. of Partial Exemp- tion Scholars.	Aver- age Atten- dance.	Per- cent- age.
			Under 5	Over 5			
Lancashire Hill Cl. ..	M.	397	—	378	44	298	84
„ ..	I.	157	5	119	—	77	62
All Saints' C.E. ..	M.	318	—	301	42	224	80
„ ..	I.	210	50	85	—	84	65
Christ Ch. of E. ..	S.M.	364	—	406	90	302	84
„ ..	J.M.	220	—	260	—	219	85
„ ..	I.	243	27	174	—	140	70
St. Mary's R.C. ..	M.	337	—	348	43	273	84
„ ..	I.	195	56	111	—	106	63
Hope Memorial C.E. ...	I.	223	26	130	—	129	83
South Reddish Cl. ..	M.	227	—	249	56	193	87
„ ..	I.	141	—	170	—	134	79
St. Mary's C.E. ..	M.	153	—	182	21	134	78
„ ..	I.	136	11	108	—	95	80
Hr. Brinksway Cl. ..	S.	252	—	260	52	204	87
„ ..	J.	215	—	254	—	199	78
Edgeley R.C. ..	B.	317	—	342	42	254	80
„ ..	G.	345	—	339	44	246	78
„ ..	I.	238	13	211	—	133	59
Alexandra Park Cl. ..	S.	500	—	326	—	282	87
„ ..	J.	400	11	303	—	224	71
Cheadle Heath Cl. ..	M.	320	—	311	—	269	86
„ ..	I.	160	4	153	—	131	82
St. Matthew's C.E. ..	M.	425	—	364	—	298	82
„ ..	I.	198	8	198	—	149	72
Edgeley Cl. ..	M.	310	—	327	—	287	88
„ ..	I.	150	7	155	—	98	61
Banks Lane Cl. ..	M.	362	—	301	27	277	79
„ ..	I.	124	10	121	—	70	53
Cale Green Cl. ..	M.	464	—	328	—	271	82
„ ..	I.	220	1	197	—	150	76
St. George's C.E. ..	S.M.	300	—	293	—	265	90
„ ..	J.M.	300	—	298	—	251	84
„ ..	I.	272	20	265	—	183	64
Gt. Moor C.E. ..	M.	220	—	233	—	191	82
„ ..	I.	120	—	139	—	80	57
Parish Church ..	M.	600	—	505	—	445	88
„ ..	I.	219	29	174	—	137	67
Central Half-time Sch.	M.	294	—	386	386	183	95

Totals, December, 1917 .. 20123 549 18118 1355 14497 80

18667

The following primary schools are now used as Military hospitals : Alexandra Park Council, Vernon Park Council, Hollywood Park Council, and St. George's C. E. Schools. Scholars who have been displaced attend at St. Matthew's C. E., Edgeley Council, Parish Church of E., St. Peter's C. E., and Cale Green Council Schools, the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School, Hollywood Park, and Newbridge Lane Wesleyan Sunday School. These premises are used upon a "double shift" system of hours of attendance, one school attending from 8-30 to 10-20 a.m., and again from 1 to 2-50 p.m., and the other from 10-45 a.m., to 12-35 p.m., and again from 3-15 to 5 p.m. Changes are made at the beginning of each term in order that schools taking the early morning and afternoon sessions during the previous term may take the late sessions, and vice versa.

North Reddish Council School is also used as a Military hospital. Messrs. Houldsworth's School and St. Joseph's R. C. School are utilised for the accommodation of the scholars of this school. The scholars of the schools affected attend half-time only, in the mornings one week (from 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.), and the afternoons the next (senior scholars from 2 to 5 p.m., and infants from 2 to 4-30 p.m.).

The partial exemption scholars from the schools affected by War Office requisitions attend a central class accommodated in the premises of the old Grammar School.

The Town Hall Assembly Room has been handed over to the Military Authorities for the reception of wounded soldiers, together with the Committee's Cookery Centre at Charlesworth Street with its equipment and cooking utensils ; the school meals are not in any way disorganised.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

VENTILATION.—The ventilation of schools used as "double shift" schools has been a serious difficulty owing to the short time available for flushing the rooms with air between the sessions. The difficulty is increased in some cases by the structural faults of the buildings.

Hand "sprayers," for the purpose of spraying a disinfectant to improve the atmosphere, have been supplied to all "double shift" schools.

Alterations are being made to improve the ventilation of the Juniors Department of Christ Church School.

HEATING.—New boilers in connection with the heating apparatus have been fixed at St. Thomas' Mixed, St. Mary's R. C. Mixed, and Great Moor C.E. Mixed schools.

LIGHTING.—The artificial lighting of Lancashire Hill Council and All Saints' Schools, and of the basement of the Parish Church Schools, has been greatly improved by the substitution of inverted incandescent lights.

FURNITURE.—Most of the desks at St. Thomas' School, Heaton Chapel, and some at St. John's School, Heaton Mersey, and at the Hope Memorial School, should be replaced by dual desks.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—The privy middens at St. Mary's C. E. and Great Moor C. E. Schools still constitute nuisances.

EXTENT AND SCOPE OF THE INSPECTION.

During the year 165 visits have been made to the Elementary Schools. At nine schools the children examined were those admitted to the schools since the last medical inspection, and children between 12 and 13 years of age, together with children over 13 years of age, who had not already been examined after reaching the age of 12. In addition, children at various ages who were brought forward by the teachers because of obvious defects were inspected.

During the latter part of the year, in consequence of changes in the staff and the suspension of routine medical inspections from May until September, the examination of the entrants was deferred. In 21 schools leavers and ailing children of all ages were inspected, and in three schools the ailing children only.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

JANUARY 1ST, 1917, TO DECEMBER 31ST, 1917.

A.—“ CODE ” GROUPS.

	ENTRANTS.						LEAVERS.						Grand total.
Age.	3	4	5	6	Other ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other ages.	Total.		
Boys	—	27	209	251	135	622	617	522	12	11	1,162	1,784	
Girls	—	21	237	258	85	601	559	459	3	12	1,033	1,634	
Totals	—	48	446	509	220	1,223	1,176	981	15	23	2,195	3,418	

B.—GROUPS OTHER THAN “ CODE.”

	Special Cases.	Re-examinations (i.e., No. of Children Re-examined).
Boys	593	17
Girls	532	12
Totals	1,125	29

The number of children with defects, not including verminous conditions, was found to be 2,151 or 47·34 per cent. of the total 4,543 cases examined. Of the 3,418 routine cases 24·8 per cent. had defects. A number of the children suffered from more than one defect.

The number of parents present at the inspections was 49 or 14·28 per cent., a decrease from last year, when the attendance was 21·8 per cent., due to the fact that the proportion of entrants examined is smaller, at which examination the parents best attend.

Following up of all cases of defect has been carried out by the School Nurses in the homes, when the need for treatment has been put before the parents, and instruction given as to the means of obtaining it, and also advice given with regard to feeding, clothing, and other matters of general hygiene where attention to these has been required.

A record has been kept of all visits and the treatment obtained.

A systematic examination of the children in the schools with regard to conditions of cleanliness has been made by the School Nurses. This has usually been carried out a few weeks after the routine medical inspection, and if the conditions of cleanliness have been unsatisfactory, repeated visits have been made at intervals of a week or ten days. Next year this examination will be made before the Routine Medical Inspection, so that the Nurse may give assistance in the selection of ailing children to be seen by the Doctor at the Clinic or examined at the school medical inspection.

The number of visits to the schools made by the School Nurses has been 122, and 8,113 children have been examined with regard to cleanliness.

The number of visits paid to the homes of the parents has been 1,787.

A School Nurse has been 17 times to the Manchester Skin Hospital in charge of children for X-ray treatment.

The appointment of an additional nurse is now desirable to assist in the home visiting and examination of children at school with regard to cleanliness, for with two nurses it is impossible to follow up adequately the large number of children with defects seen by the Doctor at the medical inspections. The work of the School Clinic occupies a considerable portion of the time of one of these nurses.

The tables which follow give the physical condition of children inspected :—

Return of defects found in the course of medical inspection (Table II.) ; a numerical return of exceptional children in the area (Table III.) ; treatment during 1917 of defects of children inspected (Table IV.) ; and inspection, treatment, &c., of children during 1917 (Table V.).

In Table VI. the numbers and results of cases treated at the Health Centres are given.

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS
FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1917.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
Malnutrition	16	—	8	—
Uncleanliness :				
Head	700	—	—	—
Body	6	—	—	—
Skin :				
Ringworm—Head	5	—	2	—
" Body	3	—	—	—
Scabies	7	—	1	—
Impetigo	5	—	6	—
Other disease	14	4	9	—
Eye :				
Defective vision and squint	764	63	384	12
External eye disease ..	28	8	36	—
Ear :				
Defective hearing	252	17	122	3
Ear disease	75	2	59	—
Teeth :				
Dental disease	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat :				
Enlarged tonsils	407	65	134	1
Adenoids	115	7	75	—
Enlar. tonsils & adenoids	81	—	54	—
Defective speech	25	3	102	—
Heart and Circulation :				
Heart disease—				
Organic	53	4	18	3
Functional	47	6	6	1
Anæmia	189	40	35	2
Lungs :				
Pulmonary tuberculosis				
Definite	8	2	11	—
Suspected	23	2	10	1
Chronic bronchitis ..	15	5	10	1
Other disease	1	—	2	—
Nervous System :				
Epilepsy	1	—	2	—
Chorea	—	—	2	—
Other disease	4	8	1	1
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis				
Glands	9	7	3	—
Bones and joints	3	—	2	—
Other forms	1	—	—	—
Rickets	35	8	24	1
Deformities	32	13	37	3
Other defects or diseases ..	853	322	209	20

TABLE III.
NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA IN 1917.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind. including partially blind	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind. . . .	8	4	12
	Not at School	—	—	—
Deaf and dumb, including partially deaf.	Attending Public Elementary Schools.	1	—	1
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf. . . .	7	7	14
	Not at School	1	—	1
Mentally deficient:— Feeble-minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools.	27	16	43
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally-defective Children	1	1	2
	Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	1	—	1
	Not at School	3	1	4
Imbeciles	At School	1	1	2
	Not at School	6	2	8
Idiots		—	—	—
Epileptics	Attending Public Elementary Schools	12	13	25
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics . .	1	—	1
	Not at School	6	1	7
Physically defective ... Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	19	20	39
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically-defective Children	—	—	—
	Not at School	10	14	24
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	25	30	55
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically-defective Children	1	—	1
	Not at School	38	40	78
Cripples other than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	20	25	45
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically-defective Children	—	—	—
	Not at School	7	5	12
Dull or Backward*	Retarded 2 years	335	350	685
	Retarded 3 years	117	110	227

* Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1917 AT 25 SCHOOLS.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Cleanliness—										
Of Head	1	606	607	57	423	359	59	5	127	61.02
Of Body	—	3	3	—	3	2	1	—	—	100
Nutrition	—	24	24	5	15	2	13	—	4	62.5
Nose and Throat	9	417	426	156	194	56	133	5	76	45.5
External Eye										
Disease	—	37	37	2	34	21	13	—	1	91.08
Ear Disease	3	76	79	17	59	11	48	—	3	75.6
Teeth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart & Circulation	2	177	179	46	123	18	104	1	10	68.71
Lungs	2	36	38	5	33	—	33	—	—	86.84
Nervous System . .	1	10	11	5	6	1	4	1	—	54.54
Skin	1	48	49	3	46	39	6	1	—	93.87
Rickets	—	48	48	9	29	2	26	1	10	60.41
Deformities	—	31	31	4	25	1	22	2	2	80.64
Tuberculosis—										
Non-pulmonary.	—	12	12	2	10	—	10	—	—	80.3
Speech	—	51	51	3	11	1	9	1	37	21.56
Mental Condition . .	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Vision and Squint .	13	803	816	267	377	345	25	7	172	46.20
Hearing	4	233	237	66	150	37	111	2	21	63.29
Miscellaneous	—	272	272	102	97	23	74	—	73	36.66
Total	36	2,894	2,930	749	1,635	918	691	26	546	62.71

TABLE V.—INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &c., OF CHILDREN DURING 1917.

(1) The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, Special or Ailing Child)	4,543
(2) The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than Uncleanliness or Defective Clothing or Footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	498
(3) The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding Uncleanliness, Defective Clothing, &c.)	2,151
(4) The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding Uncleanliness, Defective Clothing, &c.)	959

TABLE VI.—CASES TREATED AT THE HEALTH CENTRES.

Condition.	No. of defects treated.	Cured.	Im- proved.	Still under treat- ment.	Ceased attend- ing.	Referred to doctor or hospital.	Per- centage cured.
External Eye Disease ..	156	97	20	23	3	13	68·66
Ear Disease	104	53	20	21	1	6	50·49
Ringworm of Scalp :—							
(i) X-ray Treatment ..	62	56	—	6	—	—	90·32
(ii) Ointment Treatment	52	45	—	6	1	—	86·53
Ringworm of Body	66	64	—	2	—	—	96·95
Alopecia	13	8	1	2	2	—	61·53
Sores	610	538	—	40	20	12	88·19
Scabies	169	118	—	29	15	5	75·7
Totals	1,229	979	41	129	42	36	79·65

EXCLUSIONS.

One thousand one hundred and thirty-three children were excluded from school during the year by the School Doctor for varying periods of time. This number includes cases which were excluded at the school inspections and also cases seen at the Town Hall.

Scabies	148
Ringworm of Scalp	80
" Body	63
Skin Diseases other than Ringworm and Scabies ..	423
Verminous Conditions	94
Infectious Diseases	33
Eye Disease	82
Ear Disease	47
Nervous Diseases	3
Phthisis	4
Chest Diseases other than Phthisis	11
Heart Disease and Rheumatism	12
Anæmia, Debility, and Suspected Tuberculosis	46
Tuberculous Conditions Other than Phthisis	4
Tonsilitis	1
Boils	11
Mental Defect	2
Various	69
Total	1,133

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

5·32 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory footgear, whilst last year the percentage was 11·27.

5·1 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory clothing.

CLOG FUND.

The Clog Fund, discontinued during 1914-15, was re-opened in 1916. An appeal was made for contributions in December, 1917, and up to date approximately £50 has been received. Practically all this has been expended; the increased cost of living having severely affected many deserving families. The price of clogs is now from 3s. 9d. to 6s., prior to 1914 it was from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 10d. The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions, the Education Department administer the fund without charge, so that all the donations are converted into clogs. So far the collection each year has varied between £50 and £80.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The proportion of children among the routine cases showing a verminous condition of the head is 23·4 per cent., as compared with 29·0 per cent. last year and 33·4 per cent. in 1916. This continued reduction is no doubt due in part to the series of visits paid to the schools by the School Nurses which were instituted in 1914, and also to the Teachers, who are unremitting in their efforts to bring about a more cleanly condition. A large number of the girls now wear their hair tied back or plaited, but there are still many who are quite indifferent to the fact that their heads are verminous.

The percentage of very dirty heads has also decreased, being ·17 per cent. as compared with 4·0 per cent. last year. The incidence of pediculosis of the body is ·17 per cent., whilst last year it was 1·1 per cent. It has again been found that the condition occurs repeatedly in a comparatively small number of families. Cleanliness is effected temporarily after the inspection, but the condition recurs after a short interval, so that constant supervision is needed.

No system of compulsory cleansing is yet in operation.

In bad cases the children are treated at the Town Hall, and only re-admitted to the schools when certificates of fitness have been given by the School Doctor.

Fifty-three cases have attended the Town Hall.

NUTRITION.

In 341 children, or 9·9 per cent. of the routine cases, the proportion of weight to height is below normal. The number of very poorly nourished children has increased ·17 per cent. compared with ·07 per cent. in 1916. It will be seen in the tables of heights and weights given in the appendix, that at a number of the schools the heights and weights of leavers are below the standard, and this is noticeably so in the poorer districts, and amongst children who are employed out of school hours. For necessitous cases of insufficient feeding free meals have been provided at one or other of the feeding centres.

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

12·17 per cent. of the total number of cases inspected were found to suffer from enlarged tonsils, and 4·18 per cent. from adenoids. In 7·15 per cent. the tonsils were only slightly enlarged. Mouth breathing occurred in

18·63 per cent. of the children, but this in the large majority of cases was not due to obstruction. The breathing exercises practised at school, in which nasal breathing is taught, are invaluable in remedying this condition. It is not always realised by the parents that operation is only part of the treatment for adenoids and nasal obstruction, and that breathing exercises, properly performed, form a most important after-treatment.

No provision has been made so far by the Local Authority for operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids. Cases are referred to their own doctors and to the Stockport Infirmary.

EAR DISEASE AND DEAFNESS.

This number shows no great variation from that of last year. A large proportion of these cases are very chronic.

TEETH.

The condition of the teeth continues to be very unsatisfactory, and is likely to remain so until dental treatment is obtainable by all the children at a dental clinic. In 38·15 per cent. of the children examined four or more carious teeth were present, an improvement upon last year's figures, 47·31. At the Voluntary Dental Clinic at Tiviot Dale valuable work has again been done for the children attending one school, viz., Christ Church School. The following figures of the treatment done there during the year have been kindly supplied:—

Extractions—	1917	1916	1915
Temporary teeth	343	313	366
Permanent teeth	111	70	73
	—	—	—
Total	454	383	439
Fillings (permanent teeth)	202	199	238
Number of attendances	428	437	—

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

There were 53 cases of heart disease or 1·66 per cent. of the routine cases, and the majority of these were due to rheumatism. Anæmia occurred in 5·51 per cent. of the children examined.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Of the routine cases 0·3 per cent. have been found to suffer from phthisis and 0·6 per cent. from suspected phthisis. All cases of phthisis and suspected phthisis which were not under observation or treatment by their own doctors have been sent to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for diagnosis and treatment. Cases seen at the Inspection Clinics have also been sent to the Dispensary, and a report received from the Tuberculosis Officer.

Below are given the numbers of children of school age who have attended the Dispensary during the year:—

Pulmonary tuberculosis	34
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	22
Suspected tuberculosis (including contacts)	59
Debility, pretubercular. &c.	16
	—

Total 131

Of these, nineteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and six of non-pulmonary have been excluded from school.

Although the Dispensary forms a very useful adjunct for dealing with this class of case, it in no way obviates the necessity for an open-air school.

The Fearn Trust have accommodation for 10 children at country homes and this has been used for pre-tuberculous children, whose health in consequence has greatly improved. 34 children have been sent away during the year.

It is frequently necessary to exclude from school certain children suffering from chest trouble and debility, and this could be obviated if there were an open-air school where they could be accommodated.

NERVOUS DISEASES.

The incidence remains practically the same as last year.

SKIN DISEASES.

The majority of the cases of ringworm are discovered and excluded by the teachers, therefore but few cases are seen at the Medical routine examination.

Amongst the routine cases 0.14 per cent. suffered from ringworm of the scalp, whilst last year the figure was 0.10 per cent.

The number of cases of ringworm of the scalp excluded from the schools, and treated during the year, totals 80 ; in 1916 the figure was 76 ; in 1915, 39.

No case of ringworm is allowed to return to school until after a microscopical examination has been made by the School Medical Officer and a certificate of freedom from infection given.

EYE DISEASES.

The incidence of eye disease amongst the routine cases has decreased since last year, but is rather greater amongst the special cases.

DEFORMITIES AND RICKETS.

Sixty-seven, or 1.9 per cent. of the routine cases, were found to have deformities. These are the result, with a few exceptions of rickets, tubercular disease, and infantile paralysis.

These children attend the Elementary Schools. There is no special school for cripples.

SPEECH DEFECTS.

The number of stammerers seen was almost the same as last year, being 20 or .6 per cent. of the routine cases, and 48 amongst the special cases.

In the earlier months of the year 48 children attended the Stammering Class, held in the Old Grammar School. Since March, there being no further cases for immediate treatment, the Saturday morning continuation class only has been held. The lesson consists in exercises for voice modulation and articulation, reading, and conversation. Cases of threatened relapse are noted and suggestions made to the child for improvement.

The average attendance has been 7 children.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND BACKWARD CHILDREN.

Fourteen mentally defective children were seen amongst the routine cases, and 29 amongst the special cases.

The number of mentally defective children in the area is given in Table III. In the same table are given the numbers of dull and backward children, that is children who are two, three, or more years below the standard normal for their age. A considerable number of these children are by no means dull, but are backward as the result of illnesses which have necessitated absence from school, and it is for such cases that an open-air school is required. In other cases there has been late entrance into school.

The difficulty in providing institutional treatment for mentally defective children continues.

The Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, which came into force on the 1st April, 1914, imposes on the Local Education Authority a duty to make arrangements, subject to the approval of the Board of Education:—

- (a) For ascertaining what children within their area are defective children within the meaning of the Act.
- (b) For ascertaining which of such children are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in Special Schools or Classes.
- (c) For notifying to the Local Authority under the Act the names and addresses of defective children over the age of 7 who are incapable of receiving benefit in Special Schools or Classes, and also children who on attaining the age of 16 are about to be withdrawn or discharged from a Special School or Class.

Although the Authority have not yet been able to provide Special Day Schools, care has been taken to record the cases suitable for attendance at such Schools with a view to complying with the requirements of the Act.

The children ascertained to be incapable of receiving benefit from instruction in a Special School or Class, have been notified to the Local Authority under the Act; but extreme difficulty has been experienced in obtaining admission of the children to suitable institutions. It is understood that as part of the Borough of Stockport is in Cheshire and part in Lancashire, an arrangement has been made whereby Stockport will be treated as a Lancashire town for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency Act. The Lancashire Asylums Board have, however, been able to offer very little accommodation for mentally defective children, as the Board has been compelled to defer obtaining further accommodation owing to the pressure of H.M. Treasury to curtail additional expenditure.

Many unsuccessful efforts have been made to obtain admission to institutions of those children for whom the Education Authority are responsible, and the assistance of the Board of Education has been asked. It has not been possible to do more than place the names of children on the "waiting lists" of institutions.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

The figures for defective vision are given in Table II.

The percentage of normal vision is rather less than last year amongst the routine cases, viz., 77·65. Cases of defective vision are treated at the Town Hall or referred to the Manchester Eye Hospital.

OTHER DISEASE OR DEFECT.

24·94 per cent. of the routine cases were found to come under this heading. They include cases of thyroid enlargement, rhinitis, enlarged cervical and sub-maxillary glands (non-tuberculous), hernia, kidney disease, infectious diseases, scars of burns, &c.

There were 104 cases of enlargement of the thyroid gland. In the large majority of cases the enlargement was only slight.

PHYSICAL TRAINING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES.—The Instructress in physical exercises has continued her visits to schools in turn, in accordance with a time table. She has given model lessons, and generally advised and assisted in the physical training of school children. H.M. Inspector, Miss R. D. Clarke, with the concurrence of H.M. Inspector Mr. J. A. Shawyer, in a report to the Board of Education upon the teaching of physical exercises in the Committee's elementary schools, stated that those schools at which the Instructress taught and supervised showed a higher level as regarded the teaching than those which received no special guidance.

SWIMMING.—During the summer months senior scholars from each school have visited the baths in accordance with a time table. The scholars attend once each week, about 50 from each school, and remain at the baths for 45 minutes. The second class bath at the Central Baths, St. Petersgate, and the Reddish Branch Baths have been used.

The annual swimming test was held in September; 574 certificates for proficiency in swimming were given.

PLAYFIELDS.—The Committee had arranged for the use of 11 playing-fields for elementary school children, where organised games could be taken. In 1916 it was arranged that four of these playing-fields (Mid-Reddish, Great Moor, Hempshaw Lane, and Cheadle Heath sites for new schools) should be cultivated for the purpose of increasing the food supply of the country, and that in the case of rented playfields, the landlords should be advised that if they would place the land under cultivation, the Education Committee would waive their right to the use of the land as playing-fields for school children.

SUMMER TIME ACT.

The Summer Time Act which was introduced last year was in force this year from 8th April until 17th September, and may be considered to have had advantageous effects from the point of view of the children and their education. The regularity of school attendance was not affected, and although the children stayed out later at night taking advantage of the extra hour's daylight for outdoor pursuits and recreation, and the hours of sleep were to this extent curtailed, their health was not adversely affected.

INFANT WELFARE.

A School for Mothers and Babies' Welfare was opened in Stockport in April, 1914, and two branches have since been opened at Reddish and Heaton Mersey. Mothers and their children under school age are admitted as members. Instruction is given in the care, management, and feeding of infants, and cookery and sewing classes are held. There are two Doctor's Weighing Days a week at Stockport, and one a week at each of the branches. The School receives a grant from the Board of Education.

This is a purely voluntary organisation and in no way comes under the management or control of the Education Department or the Health Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases are reported by the teachers and school attendance officers to the Health Department, and visits are made to the homes by the Female Sanitary Inspectors. Handbills and leaflets of instruction are left, and any cases of over-crowding, neglect, sanitary defects, &c., are reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

Each school is provided with a "Teachers Guide to Infectious Diseases."

LIST OF SCHOOLS CLOSED DURING THE YEAR.

School.	Period of Closure. From. To.		Cause of Closure.
St. Thomas' C. E., Heaton Chapel (Infants' Department)	June 8th	June 29th	Measles.
Brentnall Street Wesleyan Higher Grade (Classes 2 and 3 of Infants' Department).	October 8th.	October 12th.	Measles.
Hollywood Park Council (Infants' Department).	December 10th.	December 20th.	Measles.
Vernon Park Council (Mixed Department). Held in Parish Church Schools in consequence of Military requirements	December 11th.	December 20th.	Absence of heating due to breakdown of boiler of the Parish Church Schools.
Parish Church (Mixed and Infants' Departments).	December 11th.	December 20th.	Absence of heating due to breakdown of boiler.
Vernon Park Council (Infants' Department). Held in the Newbridge Lane Wesleyan Sun- day School in consequence of Military requirements.	December 13th.	December 20th.	Defective drains.

PROVISION OF MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The average number of children provided with meals each week during the year has been 86. In 1916 the average number was 57. There are now two Centres only in use—Queen Street West Mission Rooms, and Charlesworth Street Cookery Centre. Meals are cooked at both places, and the children attend for two meals on five days a week, and on Saturdays for a mid-day meal, but not for breakfast.

Meals are provided during the school holidays, save on public holidays, when the catering staff are on holiday.

Early in the year an alteration in the dietary was arranged.

Porridge, served with treacle and milk, has been introduced on four mornings in the week, instead of cocoa, which is now only served once. The porridge is followed by 2oz. bread, with jam, margarine, or treacle.

The basis of the dinner dietary remains the same, meat or fish with potatoes, and a pudding being served each day.

	1917	1916	1915
Cost of food per meal	1.7d.	2.3d.	1.5d.
Cost of administration per meal	1.5d.	1.6d.	1.8d.

Copies of regulations and suggestions on the conduct of Feeding Centres are supplied to the various centres. It is satisfactory to note that the manners of the children have definitely improved.

Complete co-ordination exists between the work of provision of meals and that of the School Medical Service.

The children who are having free meals are weighed fortnightly at the School Clinic, and any child whose condition is unsatisfactory is seen by the School Doctor.

The Medical Staff to the Education Committee pay periodical visits to the Centres where meals are provided.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The connection between the work of the Medical Inspection Committee and the Juvenile Employment Committee has been maintained and strengthened. Lists of children notified by the School Medical Officer to be physically or mentally defective have been furnished regularly to the Supervisor of the Juvenile Employment Bureau, and, in accordance with the system inaugurated last year, these Medical Reports are in every case attached to the School Leaving Card.

The School Nurses visit each of these cases and advise as to the nature of the treatment required, but as the number of cases is too great to be satisfactorily dealt with by the present staff their work has been supplemented by means of Subsidiary School Care Committees established by the Care Committee. When a school has been examined and the defective cases notified to the Bureau the School Care Committee meets, and the cases are allocated to the various visitors. These visitors call at the homes of the children, and if necessary repeat the visits until it has been ascertained that the child is obtaining medical attention.

School Care Committees have been established at St. George's, Cale Green, the Houldsworth Schools, and the Parish Church Schools. In the first two cases mentioned, the whole of the cases notified were dealt with in a satisfactory manner within three months after notification. The cases at the Houldsworth Schools are at the time of writing this report being dealt with, and those in connection with the Parish Church School will receive attention at a very early date. It is intended to establish similar committees at other schools as opportunity serves.

The ordinary work of the Care Committee has been continued on the same lines as previously. The Committee meets each month, receives reports from the School Care Committees, and also deals with such cases as are brought immediately under its notice. The following statistics for the year ending December 31st, 1917, will indicate the extension of work done by this Committee.

No. of Children leaving School.....	1,686
„ Applicants at the Bureau.....	1,238
„ Children placed in situations	708
„ Cases visited by the Members of the Care Committee	324
„ Visits of Parents to the Bureau	1,279
„ Cases visited by School Care Committees..	80

INSPECTION AND TREATMENT AT THE HEALTH CENTRES.

The Inspection and Treatment Clinics continue to be held at the Town Hall and at North Reddish Council School. The School Doctor attends at the Town Hall, assisted by the School Nurses, two days and a half a week, and at North Reddish Council School one afternoon a month. In addition the School Doctor and a School Nurse are present at the Town Hall at the beginning of each morning to see any children sent for treatment or inspection. A School Nurse also attends at North Reddish Council School one afternoon a week.

At the Inspection Clinics the cases seen include :—

(1) Certain cases seen at the routine inspections and requiring further examination.

(2) Debilitated children or children with some defect sent by the teachers and nurses, or brought voluntarily by their parents.

(3) Children sent by the School Attendance Officers to be examined as to their fitness for school.

(4) Children attending for examination previous to being sent to Special Schools and Industrial Institutions.

The total number of children attending at the Health Centres has been 1.935, and the total number of attendances has been 7.600. Four hundred and fifty-six of these children were seen at the Town Hall, but not treated.

The following were the defects noted amongst the untreated cases :—

Skin Diseases other than Ringworm	8
Defective Vision and Eye Disease	79
Tuberculous Conditions other than Phthisis, including Old Tuberculous Scars	10
Phthisis (active or quiescent)	17
Anæmia, Debility, and Doubtful Tuberculosis.....	63
Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	18
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids or Nasal Obstruction	70
Ear Disease.....	8
Deafness	13
Epilepsy	9
Nervous Diseases other than Epilepsy	3
Mental Defects and Backwardness.....	6
Febriculæ and Post-febrile Debility	41
Enlarged Glands.....	33
Verminous Conditions	2
Deformities	10
Heart Disease.....	13
Rheumatism	1
Stammer and Speech Defects	2
Disorders of Digestion	8
Enlarged Thyroid	5
Miscellaneous	16
Injuries and Minor Ailments.....	18
Nil	3
Total	456

DISEASES TREATED AT THE HEALTH CENTRES.

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

Number out of school at the end of 1916.....	58
New cases excluded during the year.....	80
Total	138
Cases sent back to school certified cured.....	124
Case lost sight of	1
Number out of school at the end of 1917.....	13

The total number of cases out of school for Ringworm of the Scalp during 1915 was 77. During 1916 it was 119. The number for 1917 is larger than in the two previous years, but the number out of school at the end of the year is smaller than in the previous years.

The results obtained from X-ray treatment continue to be very satisfactory. During the year 62 children have been treated by X-rays, and of these 56 have been sent back to school certified cured. In addition, 24 cases who had been X-rayed and were still out of school at the end of 1916 have been sent back to school with certificates.

As in previous years, many of the parents preferred first to try ointment treatment before becoming willing for X-ray treatment. All the cases received after-treatment by ointments at the Town Hall, and were kept under observation until the new hair was found to be growing satisfactorily.

Of the 52 cases treated during the year by ointments only, 6 are still out of school and 45 have been sent back to school with certificates.

RINGWORM OF THE BODY.

Sixty-three cases have been treated during the year by ointments, the average length of treatment being 19.2 days.

IMPETIGO, SORE HEADS, AND OTHER MINOR SKIN DISEASES.

Six hundred and ten cases have been treated, and of these 40 were still attending at the end of the year.

Many of the cases of sores, and more particularly the severer ones, have attended several days a week at the Town Hall to be seen by a School Nurse, in order to ensure more thorough treatment. In this way the time of exclusion from school has been shortened.

Scabies was very prevalent during the year. 169 cases were treated, 118 were cured, with an average number of attendances of 6.7, and an average length of treatment of 65.4 days.

A printed list of instructions and directions as to the method of application of the ointment is given to each new case. The directions are of great assistance to careful mothers, but the prevalence of the disease is doing much to decrease the school attendance, and a cleansing centre is much needed.

EYE DISEASE.

One hundred and fifty-six cases have been treated, with an average number of attendances of 5.72. Seventy-four were cases of blepharitis. The other cases included 40 of conjunctivitis, 21 of corneal ulcer, 2 of iritis, and 3 nebulæ. Twenty-three eye cases were still attending at the end of the year.

EAR CASES.

One hundred and one have been treated with an average number of attendances of 4.8.

The large majority were cases of otorrhœa. In 20 cases the discharge ceased under treatment, and 21 were still attending for treatment at the end of the year. Six cases were referred to their own doctor or hospital, one case ceased attending.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

Prescriptions for glasses have been given during the year to 155 children, the number of attendances being on an average 2.42 per child.

The Stockport Blind Institution has again given most generous help in the provision of glasses in needy cases. Eighty-seven pairs of spectacles have been supplied by them during the year.

Arrangements have been made with three Stockport opticians by which glasses, prescribed by the School Doctor, are provided at reduced prices for those parents who can pay.

VACCINATION.

Eight hundred and twenty-one children, or 24.0 per cent. of the routine cases, were found to have no vaccination marks. The figures for the four preceding years were 26.0 per cent., 27.5 per cent., 18.25 per cent., and 22.98 per cent. respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS.

(1) Nine bursar candidates and 175 minor scholarship candidates were medically examined at the Town Hall. No candidate was rejected as unsuitable.

(2) Nine children were examined and given medical certificates for admission into industrial institutions.

(3) One mentally deficient child was examined and notified to the Local Authority as uneducable.



(a) HEIGHTS IN INCHES.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Average at 5 years.</i>		<i>Average at 12 years.</i>	
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Brentnall St. Cl.	41·25	40·95	53·3	55·1
St. George's	40·9	41·3	54·4	55·8
St. Matthew's	40·8	41·16	54·5	54·5
Wellington Rd. Cl.	40·8	40·9	54·8	52·6
Cale Green Cl.	40·2	40·3	53·8	54
Edgeley Cl.	40·6	40·7	54·8	55·3
St. Thomas'	39·9	39·7	53·1	53·4
Alexander Park Cl.	40·8	41·4	53·4	55·5
Edgeley R.C.	40·2	40·1	53·0	54·7
Portwood T. Cl.	—	—	53·76	55·92
St. John's, Heaton Mersey	—	—	54·5	56·1
St. Thomas', Heaton Chap.	—	—	56·85	56·56
Stockport R.C.	—	—	59·1	53·6
St. Peter's C. E.	—	—	53·5	59·6
Banks Lane Cl.	—	—	54·2	54·4
Cheadle Heath Cl.	—	—	57·0	54·0
Houldsworth	—	—	55·4	54·4
Hollywood Park Cl.	—	—	53·9	55·0
Lancashire Hill Cl.	—	—	54·1	55·05
St. Paul's	—	—	53·87	53·5
All Saints	—	—	51·4	53·25
Hanover	—	—	54·55	50·08
Christ Church	—	—	53·8	49·5
St. Mary's R.C.	—	—	52·52	53·41
Reddish R.C.	—	—	54·5	58·0
	<i>inches.</i>	<i>inches.</i>	<i>inches.</i>	<i>inches.</i>
Standard	41·03	40·55	55·0	55·5

(b) WEIGHTS IN POUNDS.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Average at 5 years.</i>		<i>Average at 12 years.</i>	
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Brentnall St. Cl.....	39·9	38·7	68·3	73·5
St. George's	38·2	38·9	69·7	74·3
St. Matthew's.....	37·7	39·2	69·1	65·0
Wellington Rd. Cl.....	37·5	36·3	69·9	66·9
Cale Green Cl.....	30·6	38·1	69·2	69·9
Edgeley Cl.....	39·3	38·58	73	72·7
St. Thomas'	37·1	35·6	66·7	67·7
Alexander Park Cl.	40	41·4	68·7	72
Edgeley R.C.	38·2	37·4	60·3	69·6
Portwood T. Cl.....	—	—	69·91	72·13
St. John's, Heaton Mersey	—	—	69·2	73·9
St. Thomas', Heaton Chap.	—	—	74·2	71·36
Stockport R.C.	—	—	70·2	69·3
St. Peter's C.E.	—	—	65·9	72·8
Banks Lane Cl.	—	—	68·7	70·3
Cheadle Heath Cl.	—	—	75·3	71·3
Houldsworth	—	—	66·0	68·7
Hollywood Park Cl.	—	—	67·8	72·4
Lancashire Hill Cl.....	—	—	70·5	75·3
St. Paul's	—	—	69·74	65
All Saints	—	—	64·65	67·65
Hanover	—	—	73·37	61·2
Christ Church	—	—	68·9	66·8
St. Mary's R.C.	—	—	65·17	64·63
Reddish R.C. Cl.	—	—	73·5	68·9
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Standard.....	39·9	39·2	76·75	76·5

